

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A cathode ray tube comprising a shadow mask, the shadow mask being fixed to a support,

the shadow mask including:

an effective area in which a plurality of aperture lines having a plurality of apertures for passing electron beams are arranged via a bridge, and

a dead space formed on both outer sides of said effective area in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which the aperture lines are directed, and

the shadow mask being stretched and held, with a tension force being applied in the direction in which the aperture lines are directed,

wherein

the shadow mask is fixed to the support at both ends of the shadow mask in the direction in which the tension force is applied, and has unfixed open ends that are ends thereof in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the tension force is applied,

a slit extending along said aperture line is formed in said dead space formed on both outer sides of said effective area in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which the aperture lines are directed, and

the slit has a lengthwise direction that coincides with the direction in which the aperture lines are directed.

2. (Previously Presented) The cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein a width of said slit in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which the aperture lines are directed is from 45 % to 100 % of a width in the same direction of said aperture adjacent to said dead space.

3. (Previously Presented) The cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein a length of said slit in the direction in which the aperture lines are directed is equal to or longer than a length in the same direction of said aperture adjacent to said dead space.
4. (Original) The cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein said slit includes a slit having inclined faces opposed to each other via an opening, the inclined faces being formed at an inclined angle such that light beams of electron beams entering said dead space are blocked.
5. (Original) The cathode ray tube according to claim 1, further comprising an electron shield disposed for blocking electron beams from reaching said dead space.